

**Subject:** Online Form Submittal: Advisory Group Application  
**Date:** Monday, January 1, 2024 6:18:22 PM

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## Advisory Group Application

### Step 1

Application for Appointment to Whatcom County Advisory Groups

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#### Public Statement

**THIS IS A PUBLIC DOCUMENT:** As a candidate for a public advisory group, the information provided will be available to the County Council, County Executive, and the public. All advisory group members are expected to be fair, impartial, and respectful of the public, County staff, and each other. Failure to abide by these expectations may result in revocation of appointment and removal from the appointive position.

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Title	<i>Field not completed.</i>
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First Name	Douglas
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Last Name	Benjamin
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Today's Date	12/31/2023
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Street Address	██████████
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City	████████
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Zip	████
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Do you live in Whatcom County?	Yes
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Do you have a different mailing address?	<i>Field not completed.</i>
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Primary Telephone	██████████
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Secondary Telephone	<i>Field not completed.</i>
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Email Address	████████████████████
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### Step 2

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1. Name of Advisory	Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force/Law &
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Group	Justice Council
Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force Position:	Health and Social Service Provider
2. Do you meet the residency, employment, and/or affiliation requirements of the position for which you're applying?	Yes
3. Which Council district do you live in?	District 3
4. Have you ever been a member of this Advisory Group	No
5. Do you or your spouse have a financial interest in or are you an employee or officer of any business or agency that does business with Whatcom County?	No
6. Have you declared candidacy (as defined by RCW 42.17A.055) for a paid elected office in any jurisdiction within the county?	No
You may attach a resume or detailed summary of experience, qualifications, & interest in response to the following questions	Attached
7. Please describe your occupation (or former occupation if retired), qualifications,	Please see attached resume.

professional and/or  
community activities,  
and education

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8. Please describe why  
you're interested in  
serving on this  
Advisory Group.

Please see attached letter of interest.

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References (please  
include daytime  
telephone number):

Dr. Greg Baker- 360-815-0369  
Kelly Bashaw- 360-220-4006

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Appointment  
Requirements

I understand and agree

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Signature of applicant:

Douglas W. Benjamin

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Place Signed /  
Submitted



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(Section Break)

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DOUGLAS W. BENJAMIN, M.S., LMHC  
*Licensed Mental Health Counselor*  
*Medical Psychotherapy Counseling & Consultation*

January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024

**RE: Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force**

Dear Whatcom County Council Members,

I have always had a deep passion for a robust model of integrated community behavioral health services, both as a community member and as a mental health professional practicing over 40 years in our community; you can see this from my resume. I have worked in all facets from the emergency room, in-patient consultation, civil commitment, primary care, and our schools. These various roles have led to a treasured familiarity and understanding of best practices when it comes to our judicial system, EMS/police services, hospital, out-patient services, and public health. I have gained these perspectives from serving in both clinical and leadership roles.

We are at a critical point in our community behavioral health services, especially with the behavioral health component being integrated into the new jail. I especially want to contribute to those efforts, offering my extensive experience and passion in their development. Serving on the Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force could be a very important way to accomplish that goal.

Please look over the accompanying resume for a more detailed view of my professional and community experiences. If you think I would be a good fit, it would be an honor to service on the task force.

Sincerely,



Douglas W. Benjamin, M.S., LMHC

[Redacted]

# Douglas W. Benjamin, M.S., LMHC

## EDUCATION

**Masters of Science** - Western Washington University - 1982  
Clinical & Counseling Psychology

**Bachelor of Arts** - Seattle Pacific University - 1977  
Honors Double Major: Political Science and Psychology  
Magna Cum Laude, Alpha Kappa Sigma Honors

## LICENSURE-PRIVILEGES

**Licensed Mental Health Counselor** - Washington State - Lic # LH00005940

## PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

**Private Practice** 1982-present.

*Bellingham WA.*

- Psychotherapy- adolescents, adults, couples and families.
- Behavioral health consultation, education, public speaking, EAP. Consultant- Whatcom County Health Department, Bellingham Public Schools.

**Behavioral Health Director** 1997-2008.

*Interfaith Community Health Center - Bellingham, WA*

- Pioneered development of an integrated behavioral health/primary care program.
- Staff supervision, budgeting, RSN contract negotiation/management, project management, data management and reporting, community and Board relations, grant writing, research, teaching, clinical practice.
- Secured RSN funding, State Mental Health Licensure and E & T Certification, including development of all related policy, financial and clinical aspects.
- Leader/Project Manager- Clinic EMR implementation (GE Centricity).

**Executive Director-Interim** April-September 2006

*Interfaith Community Health Center - Bellingham, WA*

**Behavioral Health Consultant** 1997-1999

*Optioncare, Inc. - Bellingham, WA.*

- Evaluation, treatment- geriatric population.

**Director of Emergency and ITA Services** 1982-1996

*Whatcom Counseling & Psychiatric Clinic - Bellingham WA*

- Program and staff development, administration, budgeting, managed care.
- Overhaul of community mental health emergency system into a fully integrated network- later promoted by DSHS-Mental Health Division as a "best practices" model.
- Direct clinical services: assessment, crisis intervention, consultation, teaching.
- Senior County Designated Mental Health Professional.
- Implemented early electronic clinical record keeping - database development and management.
- Serviced as agency interim Executive Director.

**Out-Patient Therapist/Emergency Specialist 1980-1982**  
*Whatcom Counseling & Psychiatric Clinic - Bellingham WA.*

**Counseling Psychology Intern 1979-1980**  
*Western Washington University - Student Counseling Center - Bellingham WA.*

**Student Development Coordinator 1976-1978**  
*Seattle Pacific University - Seattle WA.*

## APPOINTMENTS

- **School Board Director** – Bellingham Public Schools, Board President -*current*
- **Public Health Advisory Board, Chair** – Whatcom County Health Department, Bellingham, WA.
- **United Healthcare – Washington State Plans** – Provider Advisory Council -*current*
- **Utilization Sub-Committee–Board of Directors**, Community Health Plan of Washington, Seattle, WA
- **Clinical Director** - Whatcom County Critical Incident Stress Debriefing Program, Whatcom County Emergency Medical Council, Bellingham WA.
- **Vice President** - Washington Association of County Designated Mental Health Professionals, journal editor.
- **Board Member and Board Chairman** - St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Bellingham WA.
- **United Way Loaned Executive** – United Way of Whatcom County, Bellingham WA.

## SPECIAL SKILLS AND INTERESTES

- **Staff Supervision and Team Development-** psychiatrists, ARNPs, psychologists, MH Counselors, medical assistants, support staff.
- **Budget/Finance-** experience with up to 223-million-dollar budget oversight, optimized productivity performance.
- **Project Management-** EMR implementation, Practice Management implementation, building projects, special programs, and start-up programs.
- **Delivery System Change-** building a functional continuum of behavioral health care between primary care, behavioral medicine and Medicaid funded community mental health services.
- **Clinical Training and Supervision-** supervising psychology graduate interns, teaching them to provide evidence-based interventions in emergency room and primary care settings.
- **Behavioral Medicine-** clinical practice-integrated primary care/behavioral health.
- **Quality Improvement Initiative-** improving the health maintenance and life expectancy of the mentally ill.